

Spring 1999



Green Gram



King County Solid Waste Division

Earth Day is Just Around the Corner!

Earth Day is Thursday, April 22nd! What do you have planned for this big day? No idea? Don't worry because this issue of the Green Gram has some fabulous project ideas that are fun and easy, and pay tribute to our big beautiful Earth.



Great Green Team in Action

Green Teams are gearing up for Earth Day through a variety of spring projects. **Karissa Weeks'** fifth grade Green Team at **Lake Grove Elementary** has several projects for which they deserve a big "HIP HIP HOORAY!!" Green Team members organized a book exchange on March 17th. To participate in the "Shamrock Exchange Day," students brought books to trade with their friends to practice reusing. Continuing on the path of reuse, Green Team members create planters out of old milk cartons. Students fill the planters with soil, plant seeds in them, then take their cool planters to a local retirement home. The gift of reusing just keeps on giving! Great work everyone!



Awards and Recognition

Green Teams doing projects (or planning to do projects) can receive rewards and recognition. If your Green Team has not received the application for rewards, please call René at 206/583-0655. This year teams can be rewarded with lunch bags made from recycled plastic, water bottles made from recycled milk jugs, or pencils made from recycled cardboard. Let us know what your group

is doing to cut down on garbage either by filling out your reward application or calling René!

Butterfly gardening

Butterflies go wherever they please and please wherever they go. The role of butterflies is important in our natural world. Not only do they themselves provide food for predators but they are significant plant pollinators. With their acute sensitivity to pesticides and toxins, their presence, diversity and relative abundance indicate the overall well-being of our ecosystems.



Planting gardens, however small, is a great way to bring back native plants into your local area which, in turn, provides a habitat for many species of butterflies in their ever shrinking environment.

Different species of butterflies have different preferences of nectar, in both colors and tastes. A wide variety of food plants will give the greatest diversity of visitors.



Butterfly gardening is a great springtime project – small or large- for Green Teams interested in conservation.

If your group is planning to start a butterfly garden or improve an existing one, make sure that you find out about **appropriate** plants and butterflies for your area. If you are thinking of ordering butterflies via mail, do some research first to find out which butterflies are native to the area.

Introducing either plants or insects that don't naturally occur in an environment can create havoc by displacing native plants or overriding the naturally occurring insects. To find out more about native plants and butterflies, here are some resources;

Rainy Side has a fabulous website listing native plants for attracting butterflies and their younger stage, caterpillars. Check it out for lots of information:

<http://www.rainyside.com/landscaping/CaterpillarPlants.html>

Native plants of the Pacific Northwest

<http://gardening.wsu.edu/text/nwnative.htm>

Claire Hagen publishes "Butterfly Gardener's Quarterly" and can be contacted at skipper@scn.org

Paper Reuse idea for Earth Day - and Your Butterfly Garden



This paper reuse project is a fun way to reduce waste and add color to a garden. You can create butterfly shaped markers for labeling plants in a garden, or for an ornament to hang up, or for decorating a package. The sizes of the pattern shapes lend themselves readily to the reuse of very small pieces of paper.

You will need:

- Scrap of plain paper to trace patterns
- Scraps of construction paper or cardboard
- A pencil
- Scissors
- Glue

How to:

Copy the full size patterns A, B, and C onto your plain paper and cut out. The patterns can be enlarged or reduced for butterflies in many sizes.

Glue all three sections together at center. Let dry. Curl, shape, and separate wing sections with your fingers to give a three-dimensional look to your butterfly.

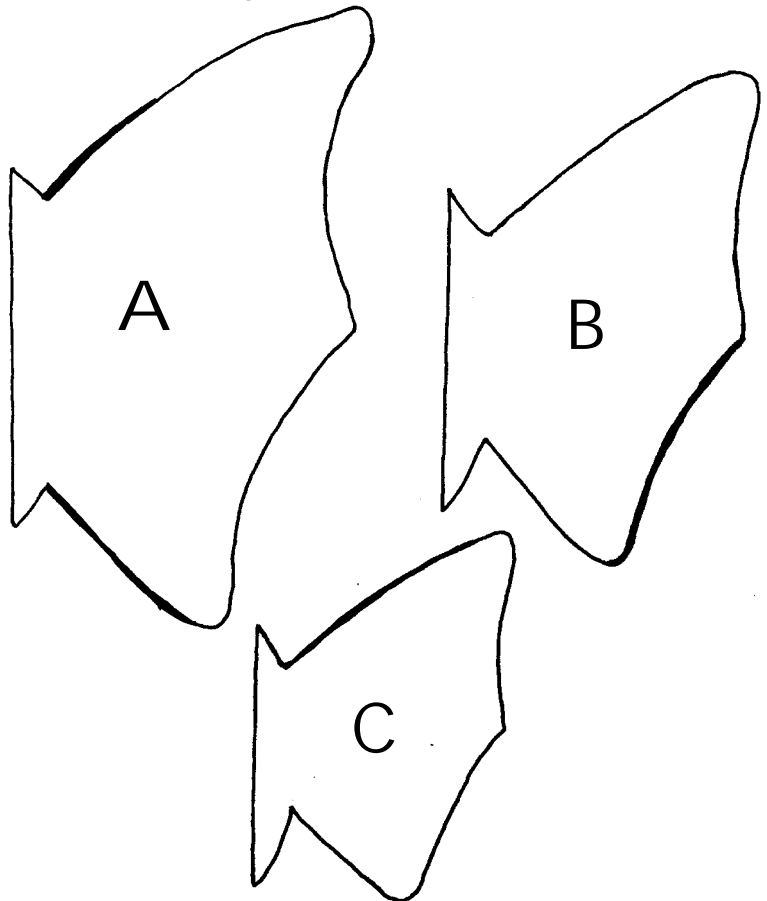
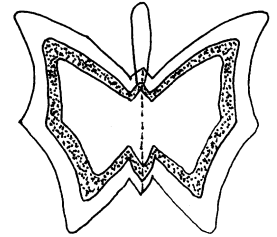
Fold your construction paper or cardboard in half vertically as shown in the diagram here. Line up the straight edges of patterns A, B, and C with the folded edge and trace lightly with a pencil. Cut out each butterfly shape. (You can do each shape on a different piece of reused paper, cardboard, or magazine pages for a wild and colorful butterfly.)



Tips

To make plant labels, you can laminate each piece, then

assemble the butterfly and attach to a stick or pole. To make your butterfly into an ornament, form a loop with a piece of string and glue it to the center of section A, then glue section B and C on top.



Green Teams at Arrowhead Elementary will be creating plant labels like these for their butterfly garden in the Spring of 1999. Happy gardening!



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